

BIOLOGICAL EVALUATION

2014 Kudzu Management Project for Indiana

Kudzu (*Pueraria lobata*) is a non native plant species to the United States. Kudzu populations out-compete native plant species and eventually replace native species because of the lack of effective natural enemies here in the United States. This change in plant habitat can cause the loss of habitat and food for existing wildlife, alter soil chemistry and structure, replace and possibly lead to the local extinction of native sensitive, threatened or endangered species, increase ozone levels, and harbor pathogenic plant diseases or invasive insect species which may spread to other plant species.

The Indiana DNR, Division of Entomology and Plant Pathology has documented 158 kudzu sites in 39 counties covering approximately 153.90 acres (Map 1 and 2). Many sites have been detected and reported by citizens and property owners. Sites are then verified by Indiana DNR, Division of Entomology and Plant Pathology staff.

Approximately 67.1% of the sites are less than one acre; however there are sites as large as nearly eight acres. Sites proposed for treatment in 2014 include eradicable sites, and sites which have increased in size and need to be managed in order to prevent those sites from spreading to adjacent lands.

Evaluation of three sites without treatment over an approximate five year period (2006 to 2011) demonstrates that the kudzu populations may increase from 170% to as much as 290% of their original size.

From 2006 to 2011:

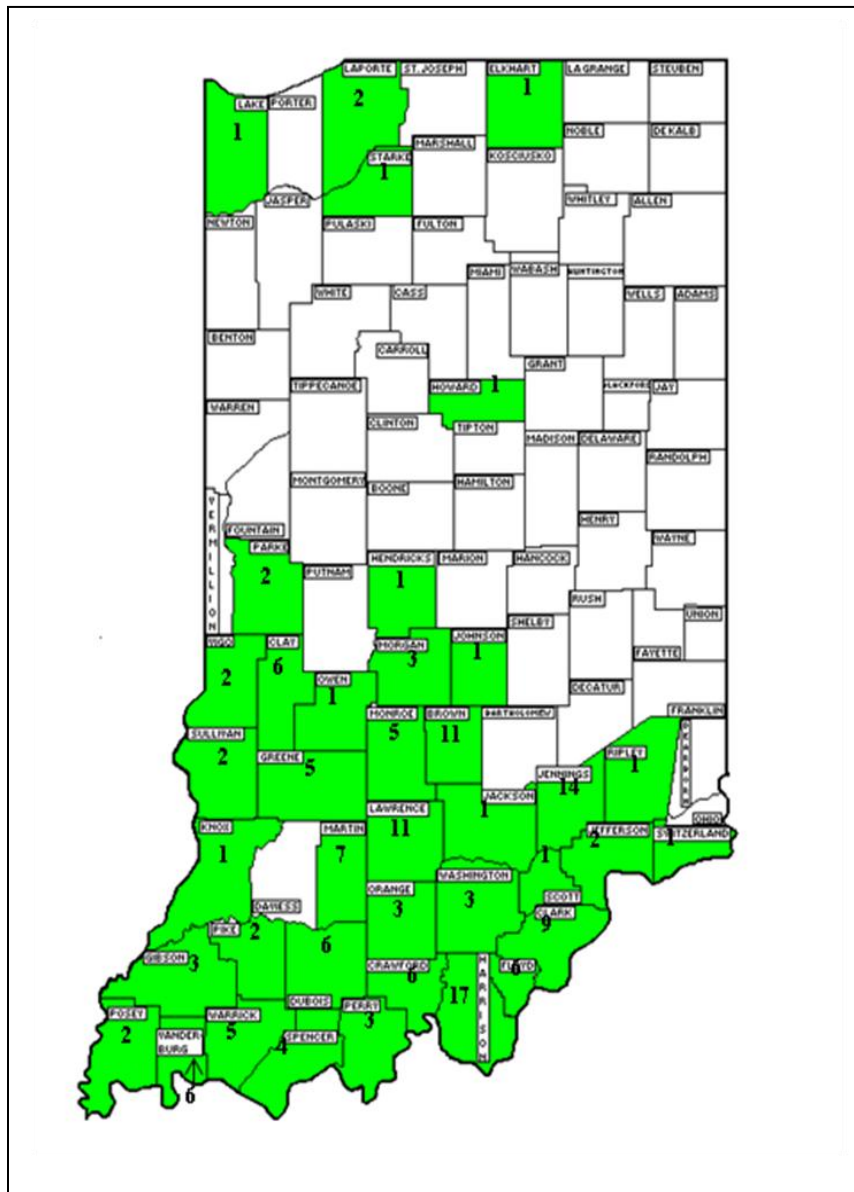
Gibson 1 Site – increased from 0.97 acres to 1.66 acres (170% increase)

Gibson 3 Site – increased from 0.17 acres to 0.44 acres (258% increase)

Harrison 6 Site – increased from 0.91 acres to 2.69 acres (290% increase)

Continued monitoring of untreated sites shows a 150% to 300% increase in acreage over a 7-10 year period.

Map 1. Counties in Indiana with kudzu sites and the number of sites per county.



Map 2. Total kudzu acreage per county in Indiana.

